

POLICY RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

The Office of Policy Research & Analysis (OPRA) supports the Chairman and NEA staff with statistical and other information about the agency's applications and awards, including grantee and applicant profiles, the distribution of awards by state and artistic discipline, and analysis of overall trends in NEA funding. The Office's Research Division issues periodic reports on larger issues affecting artists and arts organizations that are distributed to Congress, the arts community, and the public. These reports and analyses help shape changes in the NEA's grantmaking policies.

One of OPRA's projects is a geographic database that provides a comprehensive picture of the broad reach of NEA-supported activities. In FY 2001, the Endowment awarded approximately 2,100 grants and other awards. Through touring and outreach activities in communities beyond grantee home-base locations, these grants resulted in approximately 8,300 additional activities in 3,900 different communities.

In 2001, the Research Division continued to support work on several major projects to improve the quantity and quality of data and analyses on the condition and needs of individual artists, arts organizations, and arts audiences.

One research project on individual artists, conducted by the Research Center for Arts and Culture at Columbia University, is a study of jazz artists in four U.S. cities: Detroit, New Orleans, New York, and San Francisco. The study included two surveys—first, a telephone survey of a random sample of members of the American Federation of Musicians (totaling 2,500) in the four cities, and second, personal interviews with jazz musicians. This project will provide a context for how the jazz community is organized in each of the targeted cities, the condition of jazz artists in each location, the resources and support systems employed in each site, and the challenges faced by the jazz artists in each city. It also will provide a detailed needs assessment from jazz artists themselves. The results will be highlighted on the NEA Web site and published in 2002.

In the arts organization study area, the Division is supporting new studies that examine trends in nonprofit dance companies and theaters. These studies utilize two newly available data sources on arts organizations: the 1997 Economic Census and the first version of the Unified Database on Arts Organizations (UDAO). The Economic Census was obtained through the U.S. Census Bureau and the UDAO was produced in conjunction with the Urban Institute and the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies. Information from both will be compared and analyzed in order to provide an overview of trends in dance and theater. The dance study will be available in the fall of 2002 and the theater study in the spring of 2003.